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# Problems with Social Media

by Jimi Terry

We are in a new age. Everything we do is involved with technology. From reading books to playing games, all of it is technological. We are a modern group of people. We like to be on top of everything. If one person has it, we all have to have it. From the newest iPhone coming out to a new social media, we are always in the loop. Most of us have all fallen into the social media trap. Having social media keeps us in constant contact with people. It gives us the chance of being nosey to see who is still together, who broke up, who died and so on. I am one person who can admit to having far too many social media sites. When I am bored, I can just go look at pictures on Instagram and see who 'tweets' what on twitter. Though there are many upsides to social media, there are also dangers to having it as well.

One major thing that happens on social media sites far too often is bullying. If we thought getting picked on in the hallways of high school was bad, it has definitely changed now. We are now at the point of no physical interaction. If we have a problem with someone, we just Facebook it and wait for others to join into our hate groups. People get personally attacked on social media all the time. It could be on how that certain someone is dressed or simply because someone has a problem with that someone. People also make page groups bullying others. On social media it is so easy to make fan pages. There could be a "I Hate Jimi" club floating around, and people would actually follow it. When it comes to these ugly things, enemies we find enemies that we do not even know. People can join a page and be as ugly as they want, no matter if they know the person or not.

Second, people like to "Catfish." Catfishing is pretending to be someone you are not on the Internet. I know this seems silly to think that people would just flat out lie about who they are, but it happens quite frequently. By just clicking the power button on your laptop, you can have the power to be whomever you want to be. You do not think you are pretty enough? Google a picture of a random person. Embarrassed to let anyone know you are on a dating site? Make up a name. With social media there are so many lies to hide behind. I could tell everyone I am 5'11 and 115 pounds, and by the googled picture I uploaded you would never have a clue any different. Not only are people lying about what they look like, they are hiding about who they are. You might think some cute teenage boy is messaging you; then you

find out it is a forty-seven year old man instead. I hate to sound this ugly, but I know how bad this situation could be. You never know who is lurking around the corner. Not only are there lying perverts, there are actually lying lovers. There are actually people who have full-on relationships with people they have never met. They claim to love them and message them every day, but how do they know the people are being true? There is a show on MTV called "Catfish," and it actually shows that this happens. People fall so in love, but the other people always has excuses as to why they cannot see them until they bring the show in. They find the "cat fishers" and ask why. Most just say to build their confidence or even to get revenge. I think there is no excuse for heartache, but I guess you should not try to find love on the Internet.

Last of all, relationships usually hit a downfall due to social media. On social media we are free to talk to whomever we want to. From an old schoolmate to a friend of a friend, there is always someone willing to chat. Friendly messaging someone can go downhill in the blink of an eye. When that girl you always had a crush on in high school messages to see how you are doing, are you going to tell your wife or see how it plays out? We are in an age of nonchalance. Nothing is hidden very well, nor do we try to hide it. Most people are open on social media, so they just cut to the chase. Cheating is such a simple thing to do on social media. There are countless dating apps to try to "keep your options open." Lying is sometimes not even part of it. If it says you are 'in a relationship' on your page, that does not mean that people still will not try. Some people are actually okay if you do have a significant other. Relationships and social media do not mix.

Social media is not all bad, nor are all people. Social media just gets in the way of true things. It can bring out the good in people, but it can also bring out the bad. Even though I have social media, I do not think I would personally get upset if they were gone. I love to keep in touch with family and classmates, but I could just stick with calling. Though there are many upsides to social media, there are also dangers with having it.

